



Kingston Rowing Club's official newsletter

March 2007

Obituary – Dick Offer

Members of Kingston Rowing Club are sad to hear of the death, at the age of 97, of Dick Offer, the Club's past President (1993 – 2005). Sadly Dick was taken into hospital on Monday 5th February and died overnight. Many Club Members were present at the funeral on Monday 19th February at 4.15 pm at Randall's Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, and afterwards at The Woodlands Park Hotel, Cobham. The family honoured his memory with accounts from his diaries from Paul Vye and other family members including Richard Thorpe. Musical items were sung by other family members too. Our sympathies go to Dick's family. A brief history of Dick's life is recorded here.

Dick was born into a family already living by the river in Kingston and then Hampton Wick. His grandfather, Alfred Burgoine, was a boatbuilder who proudly produced one of Queen Victoria's Royal Barges, and a motor launch that held the World Water Speed record. - So his affinity with water was already in his genes. His mother was a founder and later the President of Kingston Ladies Swimming Club, and early on Dick found himself to be an honorary member of that august body to acquire the essential techniques of survival when just 'messing about in boats.'

Dick's formal introduction to rowing started whilst at Tiffin School where he also enjoyed rugby and shooting. After leaving school his commitment as a 'wetbob' took him immediately to the local Kingston Rowing Club where he was to become a lifelong member. He seized the opportunity to join and compete for the Skiff Club and try his hand at canoeing with the Royal Canoe Club. In those days 'cross training' was the thing to do and it was not unusual for him to be playing rugby for the Old Tiffinians during the winter months. Sailing was another of his keen interests having his own boat before the war on the south coast and in latter years a Thames Rater class boat, built by his grandfather, at Thames Sailing Club on the Surbiton reach of the river where he established a reputation as a competitive and competent helmsman. He sailed there well into his 70's and even 80's with his brothers and friends.

The sport of competitive rowing became a constant factor in Dick's life and this drive took him to a Henley medal in 1936 (pairing with his brother Jack in the Silver Goblets) - then to Olympic trials and then in 1938 to selection for the British Empire Games in Sydney. Dick and Jack's honed watermanship helped them to a silver medal in Double Sculls at the Sydney Games, despite Dick having a poisoned hand.

Once back in England, and within only a few months, events took a very different turn with the outbreak of war. He married Mac just the day before war was declared but Dick was soon on the water again with a job to do as part of the voluntary 'Firewatch' on the London reaches of the Thames, on AP Herbert's Motor Yacht. His affinity for the Royal Navy was confirmed with his call up and within a short time he gained his Commission and found himself on Convoy Escort duties. But it was his professionalism in training crews and delivering newly commissioned ships that honed his leadership skills, for which his Navy days are best remembered. In the D-Day Normandy landings, by then a Commander of a Tank Landing Craft it was Dick's responsibility, with accurate navigation, to be first in to his allotted Arromanches Beach to land the Beachmaster and this he did with unerring competence.

Dick was an unassuming man, modest by nature and somewhat reluctant to reminisce about his war service, but he was clearly proud of the fact that after that episode he returned the ship and crew to British shores

without serious casualty, despite having hit a mine and with a live shell in the hull – perhaps a measure of the man, his intelligence, practicality and caring nature.

After hostilities ceased Dick was quick to return to his sport and his loyalty to Kingston Rowing Club saw him in many crews up to the 1950's. It was then that he found a new passion - that of coaching and giving something back to the sport that he had so evidently enjoyed. He was invited back to his old school Tiffin, and so began a whole new era of rowing then, with notable successes, including his mission to put that school in the Henley spotlight. It must have been an enormous satisfaction to know that the name of Tiffin caused a frisson of fear in the awareness of some of the more established rowing schools at Henley Royal Regatta. Dick as a principal coach was synonymous with that, and there are many who will have happy memories of him in that role, some even who have cause to thank him for the guidance he gave them to reach high rowing honours and international success. He was an inspirational teacher, drawing on his own water skills and watermanship.

Mac, to her credit, fully supported Dick in all his rowing and coaching and thoroughly enjoyed her Henleys, often to be found surrounded by Dick's Tiffin boys on the Regatta enclosures. Dick's commitment to Kingston saw him serve the Club Committee for many years, and indeed he was a key factor in suggesting and securing the Club's present HQ in Canbury Gardens. He also stepped into the breach to run Kingston Amateur Regatta for some years. To the larger rowing fraternity he will be remembered for his tireless umpiring at the regattas up and down the Thames.

Dick never really retired from the rowing scene having only relinquished the President's chair at Kingston Rowing Club within the last few years. Up until his last day he was an avid follower of the Club's fortunes and the personalities involved.

He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.



Dick Offer 1910 - 2007

Captain's Report – Andy Hall

We came through the turn of the year with a good showing at the Scullers Head, with Simon Lack retaining the novice pennant for a second year, finishing a highly creditable 11th overall in the process, with good performances also from Steve Molloy and Colin Mercer. Prior to the Scullers Head wins were also recorded at Marlow Long Distance Sculls and Kingston Small Boats Head.

Entries have now been accepted for both the Women's and Men's Tideway Head Races, with 2 women's crews and 5 men's crews due to race. This continues our year on year commitment to increasing the number of crews that are entered for the major head races. The Vet's Head will also be figuring as an important race prior to moving into crews for the Summer Season. It does however seem that it will be a frustrating run in to the races, with many heads having been either the victim to the dreaded Environment Agency red boards, with casualties to date including the Remenham Challenge (which has been cancelled twice) and the Burway Head. The trend looks set to continue over the next couple of weeks, so fingers crossed for Kingston Head.

The Senior Squad continues to develop under the coaching of Colin Barratt and Michelle West, with coaching for the Intermediate squads coming from Andrew Martin, Richard Nelson, and Matt Evans. John Shepherd, with the help of Neil Avis has continued his ongoing support for beginners, with a new course having started at the beginning of March, and further courses planned to take place throughout the year. Anyone who is able to help with the coaching of this important group should make themselves known to either John or myself.

Finally as we move forward it's hard not to notice the amount of private equipment (blades, riggers, scull racks, and in the extreme, boats) that are currently at the club, sometimes on the floor, often covered in dust, that is unidentifiable, and in some cases abandoned. If you have equipment that has been stored at the club please can you ensure that it is clearly labelled, and in the case of boats identified to a member of the committee.

Thanks for all of the support that has been received this year, and in particular from the three Vice Captains, Michelle West, James Hepburn and Birgith Sims. Here's looking forward to a drier summer!

Chairman's Report – Guy Lewis

Henley Royal was a disappointment not just for the Thames Cup crew but for all the people involved in bringing them on. Tim Bramfitt and Mike Whale put in as much time as the athletes without payment and minimum expenses, the 'heavies' orchestrated by Matt Christie who stumped up the money to hire a boat to use at the Regatta and the Captain at the time Nigel Wilson-Dykes who took all the flak during the selection process. At the end of the day the crew lacked the experience of how to deal with the pressure of racing 2 abreast over such a course, a couple of 6 lane races prior is no substitute! Sadly the crew folded completely and even the 2nd 8, which only just failed to qualify, took very little part in any further regattas. It does seem to me to be such a waste of time and effort flogging around the gym in the winter and then not reaping the benefit in the summer months by taking part in provincial regattas, having a few beers and learning to race!

The AGM took place in August and was very well attended with about 120 people present which was just as well because there were 2 candidates, Nigel Wilson-Dykes standing for his 3rd term and Andy Hall who has been rowing competitively and has been serving on the committee for some years. Both candidates were invited to address the meeting and then answer questions from the floor. A ballot was then held and Andy Hall was elected by a small margin. Several resignations had been notified prior to the meeting including Angus Gait as Treasurer, whose advice guidance and colourful use of the English language will be greatly missed! Although vacancies for committee posts had been advertised on the board, only the Treasury post had a 'taker', James Masters. He is so far, proving to be as suspicious and as reluctant to part with money as his predecessor! I am therefore confident that our finances are secure.

So with James in place, our new skipper, myself, RR, Andy Martin, Chris Griffiths, Marcus Hoskin and President Alan Spong, that was it. I asked the membership present if they were quite happy that we should run the Club!! Fortunately the irony was not lost and Birgith Sims, Carol Cornell and Adam White put themselves forward! However, with respect to Carol and Birgith this is not exactly new blood and certainly RR and I are looking for our successors!

Autumn and winter have been and practically gone, The Small Boats Head was its customary well organized event producing good racing and a decent amount of cash for the Club and at the time of writing The Kingston Head on March 24th is being planned. Both these events have been run by Richard Higgins and

Peter King respectively and they have both intimated that they also need successors. The events are well established as you all know and have in place the various teams to run them, but an overall supremo for each event are required, please contact me if you could help.

A new coaching launch plus an engine for another launch were purchased with donations from the 200 Club and The Veterans Supper fund, thanks to Bryan Jones and Scott Tunbridge for maintaining these nest eggs!

Remenham matters. There is now a waiting list to join and as such the Remenham Committee are looking hard at the current membership list. If you have not paid the minimum membership sub to KRC, your membership will cease and so will your Remenham membership. If you have any questions about Remenham Club then contact Nigel Main or Paul Francis who are the KRC representatives.

Future Stuff. Please support the KRC dinner this year at the Club. It really is a superb event and gets better each year. The food is very good too! Next year is the Club's 150th anniversary and some great events are planned. I have already mentioned the Kingston Head but don't forget Kingston Regatta immediately after Henley. It is a tremendous event now and should be supported by all the Club membership either on or off the water.

On a more serious note we are facing some very major expenditure on the Clubhouse to bring it up to health and safety standards. These works will be carried out with Tiffin School (who are our joint tenants) and we are in the process of getting costings and a priority plan put in place. However, I can confirm that our share of these works will be quite substantial as very little money has been spent on the building since we took possession in 1968! I will ask Carol Cornel, who is liaising with Tiffin in conjunction with RR and Steve Drury to provide a report for all to see when we have the full picture.

Veterans Section – Birgith Sims

After last years success in Princeton (we returned with 11 gold medals between us) training has been going well. That is, up until Sandra took a spill from her motorbike, Ceri has reacquainted herself with the sensory nerves in her backside and Anna has hit the wedding frenzy. Added to this our spare, Lori has got herself in the pudding club and suddenly our chances of two women's eights in the Vets Head are somewhat diminished. All the same we will be sporting Kingston colours on April the first on the Tideway. With the help of our friends from the Czech Republic, Norway and Holland, the Euroeight will once again be listening for your supportive cheers.

With the arrival on the scene last year of Rob and Nick, the men's squad is looking a little less thin on the ground. The Vets Head has been shortened to a gallop from Hammersmith to Chiswick, so maybe, just maybe we will have 2 men's crews in the event. There is very little excuse for the eligible members of the senior squad, racing in the main head on Sat 31st not to enjoy a sprint up the Thames the next day to clear the hangover acquired in Vesta on Saturday evening. Should you be one of these eligible people (27years min in 2007) wanting to prove you are still not beyond a good pull, do contact either Birgith or Tim Crooks. The boats will be down there, so we might as well fly the flag.

For the more hardy, we are looking to make a representation at the Vet's Nationals this year, as well as Vet Henley and most certainly for the World Masters in September in Zagreb. Could that tempt you? A lovely place for a tagged on holiday with the family maybe? We will be looking to tow out our own boats. This will help to reduce cost and avoid the inevitable frustrations of equipment failure of borrowed/hired boats. (Don't even mention 2- to Birgith and Carol).

We have been extremely fortunate to be able to join in the main water sessions with the senior group and benefit from the words of wisdom of Colin Barrat, our current gold award coach. After years and years of no technical input, it is a treat to be on the receiving end of top class coaching. Is the Veteran section heading for more success? Why not join us and find out.

Junior Section – Marcus Hoskin & Richard Ayling

The juniors experienced an 'interesting' start to the year with a huge upheaval in the established coaching team with Martin Ellis, our junior co-ordinator, and Fiona Lunney, our Community Sports Coach standing down at the end of the 2005/2006 season. Both of whom will be much missed!

The good news is that, notwithstanding this, the juniors have entered the 2006 / 2007 season in much better shape than we could have possibly hoped back in October. Richard Ayling has joined us as our junior high performance coach whilst Richard Higgins, Chris Griffiths, Nigel Wilson Dykes and Phil Harfield, our new Community Sports, are doing a great job with the younger junior age groups.

The poor water conditions over the last month or two have been frustrating for all club members and this is especially true of the junior section. However the trip to the London Regatta Centre Powered Rowing Tank on Jan 28th proved particularly popular as a break from the enforced land training.



Going forward, for the current term we are planning for: - A second Capsize Drill - A Coxes Course (courtesy of Richard West) - A Parents Cheese & Wine Evening. Longer term, for the 2007 / 2008 season onwards, we intend to (re)organise the structure of the junior section on a 'year group' structure. This should provide a better basis for KRC Juniors to build upon the existing relationships we already have with local schools and ensure a predictable number of new junior athletes each year for our J13 year group. More details to follow in further news letters!

JUNIOR High Performance Group - Richard

This group was started by Andy Hall in September last year to supplement the existing Junior Group system. It followed consultations with parents during the previous season. Having coached at the Club since 1977, I was brought in to lead the group as Senior Coach, and the first sessions of the group took place at the end of September.

The group started with 4 x J17 boys and 4 x WJ15 girls plus cox. The group has consistently carried out the training and attended nearly every session I have given them both in the gym and on the water in the 6 months since then.

The group has now expanded and there are two remaining J17 boys and 7 x WJ15 girls plus two coxes. The group has entered five events of which two have been cancelled, as this was written. KINGSTON SMALLBOATS - 3 crews (MJ2x, WJ154x, WJ141x), HAMPTON SMALLBOATS (cancelled), REMENHAM HEAD (cancelled), HAMPTON Head - 3 crews (MJ4x-, Two WJ154x+). Between the Kingston Small Boats and Hampton Head, improvement in performance has been made, supported by regular weights testing and ergo tests recorded by the group.

Future events planned for the group include:-

BURWAY HEAD - March 3 (Two WJ154x+), SCHOOLS SCULLING HEAD March 14 (at Henley) - Two WJ154x+, KINGSTON HEAD - March 24 (Sen4 4x-, Two WJ154x+). The principal aims of the JHPG will be to enter at the National Schools at the end of May with JM2x and JW15 4x+ and 2x boats. In mid July, after racing at the 150th Kingston Amateur Regatta, the group will also compete at the National Championships in similar boats.

Regular contact with a weekly email provides the athletes with their training schedules, and parents with advanced warning of up-coming events both racing and social either organised for the Juniors or at KRC as a whole. I am assisted by parent helpers, assistant coaches Paul Stafford and Chris O'Sullivan and JHPG Administration work including racing entries is carried out by Liz Goldspink. This parental assistance is extremely important, if any other parents wish to be involved in any capacity they should contact me at RichardAyling@hotmail.com

The 2006/7 KRC JUNIOR High Performance Group athletes are:-

Junior Men - MJ17 Ben Fidler, Tom Lloyd.

Junior Women - WJ15 Jennie Brereton, Letitia Carter-Rowe, Camilla Goldspink, Rose Leeson, Lorna Morris, Sian O'Sullivan, Florence Stafford, WJ14 Roxana Ayling - coxes Charlotte Goldspink, Erin O'Sullivan.

Leviathan JANUARY & FEBRUARY Outing Report – Leonard Cheston-Porter

Sunday 28th January 2007 - The 3rd Anniversary of Founder's Day Feast and Row went ahead as planned and was a great success. We boated two eights, plus a man over ("RR") who was on a special mission preparing for our guests from Molesey.

EIGHT - "FIT" "Sir Don Gosling": Cox - SOOTY Biddulph, Stroke - BARELEAU Barclay, 7 - ROSS Perou, 6 - BOOTS Brunt, 5 - DOUBLE DITTONS Cook, 4 - ATILLA Ayling, 3 - VAMPLET Ellis, 2 - MANGE Godrich, Bow - WEASLE Christie

EIGHT - "FAT" "Leslie Parsons": Cox: Harry WEASLET, Stroke - GOZ Gostling, 7 - PIGLET Pearce, 6 - QUEEN King, 5 - LURCH Ayling, 4 - STICK West, 3 - TEDDY King, 2 - DAN Dare, Bow - JONESEY Jones

LURCH organised the assembled gathering into two crews "FIT" and "FAT". There were some dubious selections in both where the crew name seemed to be stretching a point for example "FAT" had STICK WEST on board, and FIT had DOUBLE DITTONS Cook onboard as the power-house at 5. SOOTY got "FIT" organised quickly - and soon his crew were pushing off. In "FAT", GOZ was having trouble on the landing stage, plus he had managed to remove his stretcher from the boat. Eventually, all was well, and young Harry, son of WEASEL got "FAT" to push off. Only then did we realise that the Leviathan Chairman/Kit Manager aka GOZ had managed to boat using a bow-side oar. As those who remember our East End chum from his younger days and his reputation for trying things out at fronstops - this was a technical problem too far. With the sound of technical advice echoing down the boat, finally a more suitable blade was found, and "FAT" was on its way.

By now "FIT" was keeping to the tried and tested half pressure with the usual 10 and 15 stroke bursts of 3/4 pressure. "FAT" meanwhile - paddled up to the Bridge, and paused to allow TEDDY King, coping manfully with this new thing called heart rate, to get his breath back. After a couple more attempts, and not a sign of a burst, "FAT" met "FIT" before Ravens Ait. SOOTY turned "FIT" around and with his crew in the stream, the two eights rowed up to DITTONS (most of the time) together. As the crews turned - QUEEN proffered a few words of advice, in his typically laid back non-condescending way about how the GOZZ's rocket-fast catch was throwing rather a large amount of the River Thames over the QUEEN body, encased in it's brand new shrink-fast, polynylonvycra-ethelyne training gear purchased the day before from his local branch of Primark. WEASEL had boldly arrived for the outing announcing that he felt fit, and virtually demanding a seat in the FIT crew. Perhaps he knew something about the "Wall of Water" being thrown up in the stern of "FAT". In their own way, "FIT" with the magnificent BARELEAU backed up by ROSS, finished off the outing with a magnificent burst of 3/4 pressure joined in by nearly all the crew. "FAT" produced some keen blade work, not a burst in sight of the club, and plenty of well-aimed spray hitting its target at 6 with greater accuracy than a laser-guided bomb.

So as the Sun moved over the yard-arm - the crews de-boated, lovingly washed down their craft - and retreated to the showers. After the usual, robust showering down of the cherubic PIGLET body, he grabbed his towel, and buried his face deep in it only to discover that in his regal state earlier in the morning following nine pints of Old Diregable he had by mistake, picked up the towel used for cleaning his doggies "nether regions". Still, broad-shouldered and man of the world that the PIGLET is, he carried on towelling, and just put a bit more of GOZZ's Brut (Petticoat Lane Market 85p each - a snip) to keep the flies from gathering during the meal.

Then the Leviathans did what they do best - Re-hydrate. After a couple of hours the hardy and by now well-refreshed Leviathans plus their 12 guests from Molesey moved "Next Door" to the Luncheon Room, prepared lovingly by RR (Humping the tables) and ATILLA (Cleaning and Laying Up). The table plan had been made. No mixing of KRC and Molesey members being allowed. We were graced by the presence of the KRC President, Alan Spong and KRC Skipper, Andy Hall, for our luncheon with Alan leading us all in a wonderful grace. The meal itself, lovingly prepared by QUEEN and Sylvie consisted of lamb minestrone casserole, followed by a chocolate brownie and cointreau mousse (Hastily christened "Leviathan Death By Chocolate" due to its consistency and strength), rounded off by cheese and bread. Plenty of red and white

wine was available to wash all this down. The cost - £5 a head, with £5 donation to the KRC boat fund, which by the end made over £100.

Sunday 18th February 2007 - The Leviathans turned out in fitting tribute to our former President for the 'Dick Offer Memorial Row'. 20 athletes and 2 coxes, plus a few "groupies" assembled for the outing. Lurch Ayling, organised 3 crews to take the water, made up as follows:

COXLESS FOUR - Donoratico "President" - Stroke: STICK West, 3: EMMENTHAL Pride, 2: DAN Dare, Bow: JONESEY Jones (steers).

EIGHT: Eton - Sir Donald Gostling "DICK" - Cox: SOOTY Biddulph, Stroke: BARELEAU Barclay, 7: ROSS Perou, 6: RAMBO Lewis, 5: THE DOC Steer, 4: BOOTS Brunt, 3: MASTER Bate, 2: VAMPLET Ellis, Bow: WEASEL Christie.

EIGHT: Ayling - Leslie Parsons "OFFER" - Cox: SHOULDERS Wibberley, Stroke: HORATIO Nelson, 7: SKIPPY DAD Hall, 6: ATILLA Ayling, 5: LURCH Ayling, 4: MANGE Godrich, 3: HAMPTON Cook, 2: ERICA Lovebody, Bow: RAZOR Gellett.

In attendance as supporter and assistant coach: PIGGO Pearce

SHOULDERS got his crew organised more quickly, and with HORATIO setting the rhythm they set off upstream in the dry and overcast weather that greeted them. The two holiday-makers, RAMBO and THE DOC, returned recently from their cultural visit to the WIndies were a complete contrast. RAMBO looked as though he had been brushed all over with Cuprinol. Does what it says on the can!), and THE DOC looked for all as though he hadn't got further than Streatham, (although a later "reveal" in the inner sanctum of the showers did reveal a tan vest-line on the upper torso.

While "DICK" got themselves together, JONESEY and STICK had organised the 4- and that had boated before either eight had pushed off. HORATIO and SKIPPY DAD sensibly stern - led their crew in "OFFER" with a mix of half pressure 20's and exercises upstream with few actual stops. Behind them "DICK" was now underway, and as they went round the Marina Bend, "OFFER" was nearing the Mushroom. HAMPTON Cook, was now in uncharted waters, not having got further upstream than Ditton's Bend in his last 3 rows. Approaching Kingston GS, "OFFER" had caught the 4- "PRESIDENT" which prompted SHOULDERS to give JONESEY stick for "writing his name in the water" in front of them. Every time "OFFER" moved out to go round "PRESIDENT's" stroke STICK West jabbed in a few good ones, and JONESEY's steering did the rest - wonderful stuff! In the meantime "DICK" had caught "OFFER" and showing their fitness (including WEASEL) powered past the two embattled boats. SHOULDERS reminded his crew that 3/4 of the outing was nearly done (against the stream) and that they would soon be home.

Sensibly, the 4- turned soon after, and with smiles on their faces made their solitary way back safely to KRC, their battle won. Both eights through Hampton Court Bridge, and during the turn-around LURCH Ayling called for 3 cheers to our former President, the Hip, Hip Hooray's that followed from the 18 Leviathans cheered to the sky.

Although "DICK" wanted to work with "OFFER", SHOULDERS and HORATIO sensibly kept to their own programme. "DICK" with its fitter, stronger, more sun-tanned crew were clearly the faster. Both eights made their way back in the stream, each contriving to work, without actually racing. The 2 ladies in the bows, MANGE and ERICA in "OFFER" were not required for medical assistance for either HAMPTON or RAZOR had managed to last out.

Boats away, the crews retired (once towelled down) for the usual mild dose of re-hydration. Our past President had been well honoured by us and our efforts.

Social Events – Adam White

Lots of social activity to catch up on. Firstly, Halloween was a spookily fantastic night with great food and music. To any single men not attending, think on when it comes to the next party. Those men that DID attend were outnumbered by lots of lovely ladies, 3 to 1! ... and to those ladies not attending ... how many discos do you go to where the DJ actually listens and plays your request within two songs 'don't you feel like dancing?' Well, just about 115 people did and many were asking when the next party was ... Oh and please remind me, we still need Chesny Hawks Greatest Hit(s), as requested by the group of 6 University girls.

After the terrific firework display by Sir Donald Gosling our next big event was, of course, the Christmas party on 16 December with again around 100 attending treated to another culinary extravaganza from Joe

and James. Sharon and Derek did a fantastic job in serving all the mulled wine and all the organisers and helpers did a great job in getting the place looking and feeling like Christmas.

With winter almost behind us we have Kingston Annual Dinner fast approaching on 13th April at 7.00pm at the Clubhouse. Dress Code: black tie and /or Henley Blazer. Tickets are £37 each payable to KRC. Final application by 6th April 2007. Please advise of any special dietary requirements. Cheques and this information to: Matthew Christie, 15 Vineyard Row, Hampton Wick KT1 4EG.

Finally, don't forget we have another party that is becoming a bit of a tradition – the summer Regatta Party on 14th July following the days racing. See Martin's note below and let's hope that you will be bringing your winning 3pint tankards to the party to fill up!!

150 Years Celebrations – Martin Ellis

To celebrate Kingston Regatta's 150th anniversary this year the Regatta is offering a unique opportunity to KRC members to take part in a piece of Thames history. The Regatta is commissioning special 3 pint tankards for winning crews and is inviting rowers, businesses or indeed any member of the public to have their name engraved on the tankards for an event, such as Senior 3 Eights or Coxed Fours, which will go to the winning crew plus one for their club to keep in their trophy cabinet or bar and one for the sponsor to treasure for the next 50 years. The sponsor will also get 2 VIP lunches and afternoon teas on Saturday 14th July, an opportunity to present the prizes and to write a testimony, in no more than 200 words, what the river, Kingston, rowing or the Regatta means to them.



These testimonies will also go in the programme and the website as the Regatta wishes to celebrate the people that make this event happen. Without the support of rowers, local people and business the Regatta would not be able to continue. Your name and testimony or perhaps in honour of a relative, will be a part of Kingston's history and also the winning crew and their club's history, which will last at least until the 200th anniversary for just £300 (non members it is £600). We would love to hear your stories and we would love to have every event sponsored so that all competitors have the opportunity to win the special tankards. The Regatta has been very successful over the last few years and is making a big push on the back of the 150th to clear its debt and to make a donation towards the Club to help it celebrate the 150th anniversary in 2008. So please join in the celebration by taking part in this unique opportunity by contacting Martin Ellis on Kar_sponsors-lunch@tiscali.co.uk or eve 020 8390 0482.

150th Anniversary Banquet Dinner – Matthew Christie

A special one off event to celebrate this significant landmark for the Club to be held at Ravens Ait Island, first home of KRC in 1858, on **Friday 15th February 2008 @ 7.00pm.**



Tickets £60 per person and will include a 4 course Banquet. Please reserve and pay for your place as soon as possible (last date for tickets - December 31st 2007) Tickets will go to first 200 applicants.

Black Tie and /or Henley Blazer. Contact Matthew Christie @ matthewchristie@btconnect.com, 15 Vineyard Row, Hampton Wick KT1 4EG. Cheques made payable to: Kingston Rowing Club.